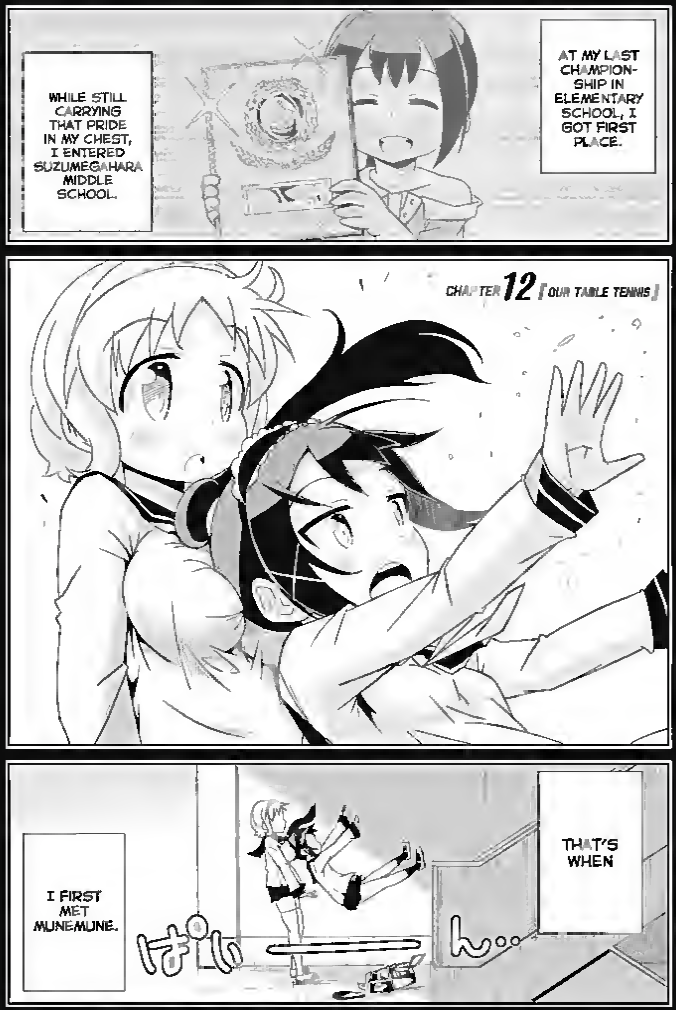
AT MY LAST CHAMPION-SHIP IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I GOT FIRST PLACE.
WHILE STILL CARRYING THAT PRIDE IN MY CHEST, I ENTERED SUZUMEGAHARA MIDDLE SCHOOL.
CHAPTER 12 『OUR TABLE TENNIS』
THAT'S WHEN
I FIRST MET MUNEMUNE.
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CHAPTER 12 『OUR TABLE TENNIS』

PHEW. THAT SCARED ME. I JUST SAW SOMEBODY FALLING TOWARDS ME ALL OF A SUDDEN!
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES, THANK YOU. I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU!
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N-NO NEED TO THANK ME! I WAS JUST PASSING BY, I DIDN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING!
THEN
THANK YOU, BREASTS
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YOU DON'T NEED TO THANK MY BREASTS, EITHER.
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UH? IS THIS A PING PONG RACKET CASE?
YEAH, I PLAY PING PONG.
REALLY? WHAT A COINCIDENCE! I PLAY PING PONG TOO!
...!
EH!!
YOU WERE THE CITY CHAMPION?! THAT'S AMAZING!
I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.
AFTER ALL,
ONE DAY,
I'LL BE NUMBER ONE!
...!
NUM-BER ONE?

I'M SO JEALOUS I'VE ENTERED COMPETITIONS BEFORE, BUT I'VE NEVER GOTTEN ANYWHERE NEAR FIRST PLACE
I WANT THAT TOO...
TO BECOME NUMBER ONE!!
MUNEMUNE HAD A VERY SOFT TONE WHEN SHE SPOKE,
THIS GIRL...
I CAN'T LOSE TO HER!
BUT IT WAS CLEAR TO ME THAT HER CHEST WAS BURNING WITH FIGHTING SPIRIT.
TABLE TENNIS CLUB
LET'S INTRODUCE OURSELVES THEN.
I'M USHIRODE KIRUKA. MY DREAM IS WINNING THE NATIONALS
AND BECOMING NUMBER ONE!

OH, YOU WERE THE CHAMPION AT THE CITY TOURNAMENT?
GOOD LUCK! WE HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU!
THANK YOU.
NUMBER ONE...
おお...
W-WINNING THE NATIONALS?
OKAY, NEXT.
ME!
I'M OOMUNE MUNE. MY GOAL IS... WINNING THE NATIONALS TOO!
I WANT TO BECOME NUMBER ONE!!!!
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Ooh...
HU HUM...

DID YOU KNOW? THEY SAY SHE SAVED A GIRL WITH HER BREASTS!
WHAT? THAT'S AMAZING!!
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE HACK! SUPER AMAZING!!
こいつはすごい…!!
POWERFUL?!
EEH! MY BREASTS?!
WOW!!
OUR CLUB JUST GAINED RIDICULOUSLY POWERFUL BOOBS!!
THIS GIRL'S BREASTS ARE AMAZING!!
S-SORRY, BUT COULD YOU GUYS BE A LITTLE MORE IMPRESSED WITH MY WORDS AND NOT MY BREASTS?
NICE TO MEET YOU, MUNE-MUNE!
MUNE-MUNE, NICE TO MEET YOU!!
IT'S OOMUNE MUNE...
HOW-EVER,
DESPITE OUR DETER-MINATION,
A HUGE WALL LAID AHEAD OF US.

ONLY THOSE AT THE TOP ARE CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIONS
SUZUMEGAHARA'S TABLE TENNIS CLUB PRIORITIZES RESULTS. YOU ARE RANKED ACCORDING TO YOUR ACTUAL PERFORMANCE.
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MY GOAL WAS TO BE NUMBER ONE.
OF COURSE, I WAS AIMING FOR THE TOP RANKS

BUT I WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
THE HARSH REALITY OF THINGS CAME KNOCKING AT MY DOOR.
NOT JUST ME
YOU NEED TO MAKE MORE DECISIVE SHOTS.
YOU HAVE GOOD TECHNIQUE, BUT YOU CAN'T WIN A GAME WITH NOTHING BUT CHOPS.
MUNEMUNE FOUND HERSELF IN THE SAME SITUATION.

MUNE-MUNE!
YOUR BOOBS AND YOUR SMASHES MIGHT BE AMAZING, BUT THEY WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD IF YOU CAN'T CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE THEM!
YOU'RE TOO EAGER TO SMASH THE BALL!
Y-YES!
CAUTIOUS PLAYER WITH NO STRONG OFFENSE
AND A ROUGH PLAYER WHO RELIES ON POWER.
YOU GUYS ARE LIKE POLAR OPPOSITES, HUH?
MIDDLE SCHOOL REALLY IS A WHOLE OTHER STORY.
SO YOU'RE A CHOPPER, USHIRODE-SAN?
YEAH.
I LIKE RETURNING THE BALL WHEN THE OPPONENT COMES AT ME WITH A POWERFUL SMASH. I JUST GOT KIND OF HOOKED I GUESS.
I SEE.

WELL, AS FOR ME,
I GUESS I JUST LOVE HITTING A SMASH WITH ALL I'VE GOT!
BUT I CAN'T GET ANYTHING DONE IF I CAN'T CREATE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.
WELL, YOU CAN ONLY HIT A SMASH IF THE BALL BOUNCES HIGH ENOUGH.
THAT'S MY PROB-LEM!
WELL, WE'RE ONLY AT THE BEGINNING! LET'S DO OUR BEST, USHIRODE -SAN!
ぱぃーん!!
YEAH ...
...
CITY CHAMPION.
MY PETTY LITTLE PRIDE
WAS CRUSHED TO PIECES IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
THIS IS NOT HOW IT WAS SUP-POSED TO GO DOWN.
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AS SOON AS I ENTERED THE CLUB, THEY PUT ME THROUGH SOME VERY STRICT TRAINING.
AS WE WERE AIMING FOR THE NATIONALS THE PRACTICE REGIME AT SUZUME GAHARA WAS VERY RIGOROUS.
YEAH.. GOOD LUCK, GUYS.
AYA-CHAN, YOU'RE GIVING UP?
退部届
THE FIRST YEARS WHO COULDN'T KEEP UP STARTED LEAVING THE CLUB ONE BY ONE
BY THE TIME THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT WAS OVER, ONLY MUME-MUNE AND I WERE LEFT.

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HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
THE TRAINING JUST KEEPS GETTING HARDER AND HARDER.
ARE YOU OKAY, USHIRODE-SAN?
...!
IF I CAN'T EVEN HANDLE THIS MUCH,
THERE'S NO CHANCE I'LL EVER BE NUMBER ONE. THIS IS A WALK IN THE PARK!
I-I'M NOT LOSING EITHER!
ON THE SURFACE I KEPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, BUT...

WAS THE FACT THAT I JUST COULDN'T CLOSE THE GAP IN STRENGTH BETWEEN ME AND THE OTHERS.
ADDING TO THE HARSH TRAINING REGIME
AH, THE FIRST YEAR GIRLS?
WHEN THEY SAID THEY WANTED TO BE NUMBER ONE I WAS PRETTY IMPRESSED, B...
TURNS OUT THEY WEREN'T ANYTHING SPECIAL.

MAYBE IT'S TIME TO GIVE UP.
...
It's normal to set your goals high.
Well, everybody has dreams like that at first.
MY SPIRIT HAD BEEN SHATTERED.
LIKE THE REST OF THE FIRST YEARS WHO HAD GIVEN UP,
OH, BUT LITTLE BY LITTLE I'VE BEEN MANAGING TO KEEP UP WITH TRAINING, SO MAYBE I'VE IMPROVED A LITTLE BIT!
I...
I'M SORRY, MUNE-MUNE,
TODAY WAS TOUGH AS USUAL WASN'T IT?

THANK YOU, USHIRODE-SAN.
I WOULD HAVE NEVER MADE IT THIS FAR IF YOU WEREN'T HERE.
EH?
"I'M USHIRODE KIRUKA. MY DREAM IS WINNING THE NATION-ALS."
"AND BECOMING NUMBER ONE!"
SEEING SOMEBODY WITH THE SAME GOAL AS ME GIVE IT THEIR ALL
MAKES ME WANT TO DO MY BEST TOO!

SO LET'S KEEP DOING OUR BEST.
THE TWO OF US, TOGE-THER!
...
NO...
I CAN'T ...
NO...

I GAVE UP ALREADY.
MY SPIRIT'S ALREADY BROKEN.
MUNEMUNE HAD NO IDEA ABOUT THAT, AND YET SHE...
SHE...
YES...
LET'S DO OUR BEST
TOGETHER!

THAT'S WHEN I MADE UP MY MIND
I WANT MUNE-MUNE
BY MY SIDE.
"YOU GUYS ARE LIKE POLAR OPPOSITES, HUH?"
I WANT US
TWITCH
TO SHARE EVERY-THING.
I WANT TO BECOME NUMBER ONE WITH HER.
NOT JUST AS WE AIM TO BECOME NUMBER ONE.

MUNEMUNE, YOU CAN'T BECOME NUMBER ONE.
EH?
AND IT'S PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TOO.
WHAT?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
IT'S ALREADY AUTUMN AND WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY CLOSER TO THE REST OF THE TEAM.
AT THIS RATE WE WON'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITION.
NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY, WE HAVE OUR LIMITS.
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LET'S QUIT.
BUT, USHIRODE-SAN, WE HAD THE SAME GOAL.. I THOUGHT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND...
EVERYBODY KEEPS MAKING FUN OF ME THEY SAY I'M ONLY A PAIR OF BREASTS WITH NO TALENT,
I BELIEVED IN YOU!
KYAH!

IF WE'RE TOGE-THER,
I'M SURE WE COULD BE NUMBER ONE!!
BUT,

LET'S BECOME NUMBER ONE AT DOUBLES.
DOU... BLES...?
...
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THE TWO OF US
ARE ONE!

WE LEFT SINGLES BEHIND
TO FULFILL OUR AMBITIONS AT DOUBLES.
OUR TABLE TENNIS
IS GOING TO BE NUMBER ONE.

(HOMURA-FUBUKI) 8-4 (KIRUKA-MUNEMUNE)
OUR COMBINATION IS PERFECT!
YOUR WINNING STREAK ENDS HERE!

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SET BACK AT A PLACE LIKE THIS.
YOU SEE, WE HAVEN'T REALIZED OUR DREAM YET, SO...
THAT WOULD BE A PROB-LEM.
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ARE YOU READY, MUNE-MUNE?
START-ING NOW,
WE STRIKE BACK.
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SKATER WANKO